



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Henry J. Mroz Administration Office
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

John J. Leahy
Mayor and Chairperson

Finance Subcommittee Meeting

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Andre P. Descoteaux
Vice-Chairperson

Monday, April 26, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting
4:30 p.m.

Hilary Clark
Michael Dillon Jr.
Jackie Doherty
Robert J. Hoey Jr.
Connie A. Martin

Subcommittee Members Present:	Chairperson Ms. Martin, Mr. Descoteaux and Ms. Doherty
School Committee Members Present:	Ms. Clark
School Department Personnel Present:	Dr. Boyd, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Turner, Chief Financial Officer Dr. Hall, Chief Operating Officer Ms. Desmond, Chief Academic Officer

This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. 30A, Section 20.

Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. The following agenda item was discussed:

1. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Update

Ms. Turner addressed the Subcommittee and provided additional information regarding the school site councils' budget decisions. She stated that on March 3, 2021, the School Committee authorized an increase to the fair student funding pool by \$4 million. She stated that concerns were shared by some members when we recommended \$2 million of this coming from an anticipated increase to Chapter 70, thus the district increased the pool that is shared between all of the schools by \$4 million using ESSER II dollars. She stated that these dollars were

prorated between the schools using the fair student funding process that allocates funds using a weighted equity system so that the dollars follow the students and the individual school allocation amounts were released to schools on March 5th. She stated that the decisions made for these funds were influenced by over 265 community members, including principals, teachers and parents at each school. She stated that one (1) of the three (3) main goals of Fair Student Funding is to provide transparency on where the dollars go and why. She stated that the goal of providing equity is obtained through having the dollars follow the students through a weighted system that gives more funds based on student characteristics. She stated that the key areas are as follows:

- Economically Disadvantaged
- Homeless
- Low incoming performance
- Grades PreK-3
- Grade 9
- ELL
- Special Education

She stated that the Adie Day School, The Bridge Program, Laura Lee Therapeutic Day School, Leblanc and the Career Academy have a baseline budget. The report stated that the next steps will be taken between now and the planned budget approval to get continued feedback from the community and School Committee. The next steps are as follows:

- April 15th Forum for Staff
- April 20th Forum for Families and Community Partners
- April 22nd Forum for Families and Community Members
- April 26th Finance Subcommittee
- May 5th Budget Presentation
- May 10th Public Hearing
- May 17th Public Hearing (if needed)
- May 19th Tentative Budget

**Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 3 yeas
APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,



Billie Jo Turner, Chief Financial Officer
for Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent and
Secretary, Lowell School Committee

BJT/mes